United Nations A/70/1010–S/2016/661

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (b)
Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 28 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the President of the Russian Federation of 28 July 2016 aimed at the inclusion of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation (see annex).

This decision is null and void and does not create any legal consequences for the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

I would appreciate your having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the "inclusion" of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly protests against the "inclusion" of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation.

This decision is null and void and neither creates any legal consequences nor influences the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

The occupying State continues to blatantly neglect the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 68/262, entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), its obligations under the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997 and other norms of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls again on the Russian Federation to revert to implementation of its international obligations and to stop aggression and illegal occupation of the part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine.